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THE *World* of Aug. 5, in an editorial pursuing the policy of revenging Nast's cartoons by waging business war against, and making personal impeachment of, the house of Harper & Brothers, pillories them under three several specifications. The Harpers replied in a card the next morning, in which they state, replying to the first charge of—"their persistent appropriations, month after month of the reproductions which the London *Graphic* is giving its purchasers of Doré's London. The New York copies of these reproductions are bad enough in all conscience from the æsthetic point of view. But they become much worse when we consider that they are foisted off upon the public as the original work and property of the American publishers"—that these illustrations are from duplicate electrotype plates, of which they purchased nearly a year ago from Messrs. Grant & Co., London, the exclusive right for America. This is rather hard on the *World's* artistic acumen. The second charge is that the Household Dickens "is given to the public as the Harpers' Dickens, when it is not the Harpers' Dickens at all, but the Dickens of Chapman & Hall." The Harpers reply: "The facts in regard to this edition are that Messrs. Chapman & Hall, the London publishers, sold us the electrotypes of some of the illustrations to 'Martin Chuzzlewit,' and are now delivering to us electrotypes of the illustrations to 'David Copperfield.' In addition to these plates, we are having prepared, for future volumes of this edition, original illustrations by such eminent American artists as Thomas Nast, Thomas Worth, W. L. Sheppard, and C. S. Reinhart. The edition is, therefore, our own, not only by right of purchase, but by the employment of original talent in the pictorial embellishments." The third charge, that the public was deliberately deceived as to "Albert Lunel," is very thoroughly met by the facts of the case. Early sheets were purchased by the Harpers' London agent, under the assurance that it was a genuine suppressed work, of which only five copies had been (accidentally) saved. The card concludes: "Our relations with foreign authors and publishers are extensive, intimate, and cordial; and it is a singular fact, if the charges of the *World* be true, that nearly all complaints against the manner of our dealings with these gentlemen come from American sources. Across the water they appear to be very well satisfied, and to view with some degree of complacency the singular species of 'piracy' by which they dispose of their productions on their own terms and at prices which the most exacting allow to be liberal."

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The Unity of the Trade.

ALL the evils of which we have treated in previous articles upon author's books, the agency system, "introducing" school-books, underselling, etc., etc., we believe are to be attributed to one ultimate and underlying cause—the lack of unity of the trade, the failure to realize that the interest of every person legitimately a member of it, is essentially one. The fact that the heads of the trade—the manufacturers or publishers—have practically left this out of the question in managing their business, has led to the present lamentable demoralization of the entire trade. The commercial purpose of publisher, jobber, and retailer alike is to make money, by selling books. This means that as many books as possible should be sold, at a profitable price. We regard it as beyond question that this purpose is best served by making use of the usual channels of trade, the machinery which every business has found natural and profitable,

namely, a system of retail dealers, at all points throughout the country which are able to support a retailer. These retailers, when the business is sufficiently remunerative to attract capable men, exert a local influence, and nourish a local demand beyond the power of the manufacturer or jobber to cultivate. The natural system of trade is like the natural system of rivers; little streamlets gather the individual drops from the rains into springs, and these flowing together, feed and become the great rivers.

Now, in any business which has to deal with goods other than the absolute necessities of life, the encouragement of these local agencies for creating demand is the matter of first importance. Every man comes of his own motive to buy flour, muslin, and coal, because he must have them; but most men must be induced to buy books. The value of personal influence in selling books we have before pointed out in an editorial discussion as to sub-

scription books. In the regular trade, it is the retail bookseller alone who exercises the personal influence. Of very many books, the publisher can undoubtedly sell large editions directly by means of the press; but with an undemoralized retail system, giving the retail dealer, of course, like advantage by advertising, all these copies would be sold, and *one knows not how many more*. It is this last element of profit—the people who will buy books if a bookseller tries to sell them, but who spend their surplus money for something else, except personally approached by a book dealer—an element of very great importance, which the publisher neglects, in attempting to sell directly in competition with the retailer, and thus breaking down the retail trade. For the retail trade is being broken down, and publishers must soon choose deliberately between the two systems of sales. The retail trade cannot live against the competition of manufacturers, and either the competition or the retailers must cease to be. The latter is almost the case now; nine out of ten “book-stores” are already mere fancy-goods shops, where books form the least part of the stock. The attention that we, as organ of the trade, find ourselves compelled to give to stationery and fancy-goods, is itself a sign of no small significance.

In other trades, this need of cultivating best relations with the retail trade is recognized throughout. Wholesale dealers refuse to sell directly to the consumer, for the declared reason that they prefer to protect their retailing customers, and they find the policy thoroughly sound and profitable. A bookseller complains that the reason they throw their extra capital and energy into stationery and fancy-goods is, that “manufacturers of these goods understand the true relations between manufacturer and dealer, and dealer to consumer, which publishers almost alone ignore.” An actual antagonism has sprung up between booksellers and publishers—“if he does not undersell, the *publisher* will undersell *him*,” says a bookselling apologist; “the publisher sells his books to the retailer, and then endeavors to prevent him from selling to any one else.” And he adds, rightly, that this is a weakness of the publishing business alone, a branch of trade which as the most intelligent, should be the most far-sighted.

It is undoubtedly true that the selling, or causing to be sold at retail by any publisher, of books published by him at a specified retail price, is a piece of bad faith, and virtually if not legally, a breach of contract. This is self-evident. The defence noted above must be ruled out of court. Because booksellers do wrong, is no reason that publishers should endorse and follow their example; and moreover, any assumptive reprisal of this sort damages, if any, the right-dealing members of the trade more than the offenders. The difficulty cannot be reached, except to increase it, in this way. We are inclined to think, also, that the “mailing

notice” is virtually an offer of this kind. It would be better for publisher and retailer alike, that the former should add, in his advertisement, a charge of some definite small amount, five or ten cents, for postage; the dealer would thus be given his proper advantage, to offset the expressage he must pay, and the publisher would still be able to fulfil his professed aim of serving those buyers who are out of reach of bookstores.

To come then to the generally suggested remedy for underselling and its train of evils—a reduction of retail price so that the trade discount would be less disproportionate and less “temptations” than at present. There is no doubt that the public has come to feel that books are issued at an artificially high price, and that they have a right to demand ten or twenty or thirty off; a belief which is encouraged by placards in many shop windows offering “books at half price.” The original excuse for these heavy discounts was not a bad one—that such were needed to cover losses from dead stock. But the plan has not met with success, and it is proved that the bookseller must provide against “dead stock” by intelligence in refusing to buy unsaleable books. Excessive discounts have led only to demoralization. It is a demoralization which cannot be entirely stopped, for bookselling is not a close trade, and—except publishers should adopt the unlikely expedient of appointing certain booksellers sole agents for exclusive districts, thus putting copyrighted books on their legal *status* as patented articles—never can be. No matter what arrangements are entered into by every member, it may be, of the present trade, it is scarcely possible to prevent a new-comer from buying books and selling them as he pleases, or a dry-goods man from offering books at cost price as an advertisement. The spirit of American internal traffic is so entirely opposed to any close castes of this sort that any attempt to impose restrictive conditions in selling books would soon break down. But a general reduction of retail prices and a stiff scale of trade discounts would certainly clear the air for a new departure. The public would no longer look upon discounts as an inherent right of manor as guaranteed by the Declaration of Independence. The regular bookseller would no longer persuade himself that he could afford to offer discount, and would be brought face to face with the facts. There would be much less temptation for the “guerilla” trade which now takes the life out of the regular hands. And a new life would be infused into the entire trade, which would rejoice the publishers’ hearts and pockets.

It must, however, be borne in mind that the book trade is not entirely analogous to other branches of business, and is not altogether under the same politico-economic laws. In fact, as we have hinted, it is alike in all respects only with the trade in patented articles. There is in this some excuse for the present state of things, and an un-

fortunate certainty as well that the relations of the trade must always be somewhat abnormal. The two elements of value in a book, literary and mechanical, is the first difficulty, which crops out chiefly in the copyright discussion. But there is the further peculiarity, more pertinent here, that all but books too old for copyright, and even the several editions of these, are monopolies. There is, therefore, but a limited competition between the manufacturers of this trade. So if a publisher favors one dealer at the expense of another, the latter has only the very limited redress of cutting off his own nose to spite his face, by refusing to sell the books of that house. Again, the book once issued is of a fixed and describable quality, so that the buyer can safely order it without seeing it, over the retailer's head—whereas, for flour or coal he would have to go about and see who had the best as well as who sold it lowest. These and other considerations of like nature, put the bookseller at a permanent disadvantage and greatly perplex all problems relating to the trade in books.

But it is, on the other hand, to the advantage of the publisher that he sell as many books as a demand can be created for, and we have shown that the retailer must, after all, be the one means of reaching those who might or might not buy the book, and with these, those who would buy it any way. The disadvantages of the bookseller are thus naturally offset by the necessity that the publisher should be in friendly relations with him. If the publisher, as now, forgets this, it is at his peril. Already intelligent men are forsaking the book-retailing business, and what little remains will soon be falling into the hands of ignorant shop-keepers who know no more how to push and sell a book than how to write one. And that finally means the very serious crippling, if not the paralysis, of the trade.

The first reform then, is in a reduction of the stated prices to the sum of the price paid the author, the actual cost of manufacture, a fair profit to the publisher, and a discount of 25 per cent., at most, to the bookseller. This discount should be held absolutely stiff, none should be allowed to the general public, and the extra discount to jobbers or very large buyers should be so small that they could not afford to undersell. The prevalent uniting of the publishing, jobbing and retail business is a feature of the times and cannot be prevented; it will be sufficient if the prices of each department be kept absolutely rigid. The difficulty is not that publishers retail, but that they retail below price. But they should not go beyond their own stores to compete with their retailing customers, and there should be an additional charge for postage in mailing books directly, for the same reason. It is very desirable that there should be an organization of the whole trade, for the furtherance of these and like reforms. Meanwhile there need be no delay; mere individual action could do little, but ten of

the largest firms of the three Eastern publishing centres, agreeing together, could bring about the reform at once, for the other honorable houses would gladly follow their lead and the smaller people who publish poor books at big prices so as to offer immensely high discounts, would soon appear in their true light to the trade and the public. We would respectfully suggest that the fall of 1872 will be as good a time as any for the inauguration of the needed reform, and we invite the co-operation of all in arresting the universally lamented demoralization of the trade before it is too late.

CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM BOSTON.

AUGUST 2, 1872.—It was once remarked of a good deacon who felt "called" to speak quite often in religious meetings, that "he had nothing to say, and was continually saying it!" I do not intend to subject my letters to any such criticism, and consequently have not written for three or four weeks. The plain truth is there has been no literary intelligence of importance or interest to communicate, and as for making up a letter of airy nothings, let others do it, I cannot, especially in these hissing hot days. The "Can't Get Away Club" is well represented in our city this season, and indulges in daily benedictions on our much abused east wind, which usually lands toward night at the end of Long Wharf, and comes up State street into men's business and bosoms, bringing coolness and comfort to perspiring humanity. How we watch the weather-vanes on Old South and Park street churches! No matter how the theological winds may blow down beneath, in the pulpits, no matter how "old school" and "new school" may differ, we look at the eastward pointing vanes and become cool and tranquil.

A glance into our bookstores would satisfy the glancer that business was "dull"; clerks sell a few novels and some light literature suited to the mountain or sea-side sojourn, but regular trade is among the things that were, and among the things that are to be, but certainly not in the present tense. For a wonder, our leading publishers can sit quietly in their rooms and chat leisurely with callers, indulge in reminiscences or anticipations, or deliberately make plans for autumn work. Not that our publishers confine themselves closely to the city, they are to be found, a few days at a time, perhaps at the Rockland House at Nantasket, or at Leavitt's at Hampton Beach, or at Newport, or in the hill country, but they all keep good watch of home matters, and do not allow pleasure to interfere with business.

But as we catch a glimpse of autumn in the horizon, the key-note of preparation sounds gently, and a few items begin to float in the literary atmosphere. As for authors, they fled long ago, but their "works" did not follow them, and the printer and binder have them in hand. Before I get any warmer let me jot down all that is now in my memorandum.

Noyes, Holmes & Co. have at last completed arrangements for publishing an important educational work, for which there have been numerous competitors, but "Young America" won the prize. It is nothing less than Walter Smith's system of Free-hand, Model, and Object Drawing, illustrated and taught by a series of slates. Mr. Smith's reputation in England and in this country

as a master of the art of drawing, is too well known to your readers to require any remarks of my own, and the earnestness with which various leading publishers have tried to secure his services is ample evidence that his reputation has some solid foundation to rest upon. As head master of the Leeds School of Art and Science, and Training School of Art Teachers, in London, as professor of art education in our city Normal Art School, as our State director of art education he has shown a signal ability and a thorough scientific and practical knowledge in his specialty that have surprised and delighted his pupils and patrons. The "American Drawing Slates," by Mr. Smith, soon to be published by Noyes, Holmes & Co., accompanied by a "Teacher's Companion," will contain over one hundred examples adapted to students of all ages and degrees of advancement, and ranging from the simplest elementary studies to the most artistic designs. These examples are made in white lines on a black ground, and are placed on the inner side of each cover to the slate and the same size as those contained in the Teacher's Companion. These works, the Slates and the Companion, differ entirely from any and every slate, drawing-book, or chart heretofore published, and a thorough trial verifies the opinions expressed by our best judges in educational matters, that they are far in advance of any works now before the public, devoted to elementary drawing. The "Companion," aside from its connection with the Slates, will prove of great value to all teachers in drawing, as a guide to black-board exercises. Every example in the book has "construction lines" appropriately numbered. The course of study presented in these slates is thus divided:

No. I.—Part I, Free-hand Drawing.

Part 2, Free-hand Drawing (advanced).

No. II.—Part I, Model and Object Drawing.

Part 2, Model and Object Drawing (advanced).

The announcement of the preparation of these educational works by so practised and celebrated an art-master as Mr. Smith, should induce committees of schools of every kind to give the subject attention. Drawing has been introduced into our Boston schools with great success, and it will not be long before all the leading schools in our State will have their classes in drawing, and the publication of Mr. Smith's works is timely and will prove very popular.

Lee & Shepard will have ready before long an elegant edition of "A General System of Descriptive and Analytical Botany," in two parts. Part I. contains Organography (what a name!), Anatomy, and Physiology of Plants; Part II. treats of Iconography, or the description and history of Natural Families. The work has been translated from the French of E. Le Maout, M. D., D. J. Decaisne, by Mrs. Hooker, wife, we presume, of Dr. Y. D. Hooker, Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, and will have the appalling number of 5,000 woodcuts! The price is not yet determined, probably not far from \$25.00. L. & S. will also publish an edition of Woodward's "Historical and Chronological Encyclopædia," one of the fullest, perhaps the best work of the kind to be had; it is a huge octavo, and the price will be about \$13.00. Of new books just from the press of L. & S. I may specify George H. Calvert's "Goethe, His Life and Works." Mr. Calvert knew the great author personally and he naturally enough is ardently warm in his praise, and that there is very much to praise, admire, and wonder at in Goethe's life, character and writings (the latter comprising sixty volumes!) no

one in his senses will deny. But even Calvert cannot make a second-hand saint of his hero, so far as his friendships and "loves" are concerned; in this country we have not yet—thank the Lord, learned to countenance promiscuous loving, or the keeping or marrying of mistresses. It is too bad that there is this dark side to Goethe's life; but there it is, and no apologist can effectually gloss it over. The book is one of the best of the great many on the same great subject; its chief drawback is its stilted and involved style. E. P. Whipple pithily says that Mr. Calvert's style would be improved if he were for a few months submitted to the discipline of a daily paper, for a journalist is forced to be simple, because he has not time to be literary. But despite this fault, which after all does not affect the subject matter, the book will and should have a lasting popularity with literary people; it is issued in good style. "Under the Cedars" is the title of a novel just published by Lee & Shepard. The opening pages are in very poor English, but I will not pronounce against it until after perusal, and I hope not to then! But you and I, and the rest of the world are becoming tired of poor novels, and long for something, at least, fairly creditable to the author, and decently complimentary to the tastes and intellect of the reading public. "Three Generations," is in a better vein, and its pictures of varied phases of New England life are capital. "The Geology of the Stars," by Prof. A. Winchell, author of "Sketches of Creation," is also in press by Lee & Shepard.

Rev. W. H. H. Murray's forthcoming book will be a stout octavo volume, with a fine steel portrait of the author. Its title will be "Words Fifty Spoken," and it is made up of selections from his discourses. The Park Street clergyman evidently has no aversion to appearing in print; this is his fourth volume, I believe, and he is yet a young man in the beginning of a long career of usefulness and popularity, should life and health be spared to him. For some reason, best known to himself, he has changed publishers, and his book will have the imprint of Lee & Shepard, instead of J. R. Osgood & Co.

The Alumni and friends of Harvard University will be glad to learn that the Library building is to be radically improved and enlarged, so that its capacity will be adequate to 25,000 additional volumes. Various improvements will be made in the arrangement of the books, so that they will be easier of access, and more in accordance with the wants of students than is possible with the present accommodations. It is a pity that the proper authorities could not see their way clear to erect a new building, instead of tinkering the present old and inconvenient, dimly lighted and poorly arranged structure; but in lack of it, we are thankful for what is now being done.

Speaking of libraries reminds me of our City Library, one of the grandest institutions in the country, and conducted on most liberal and satisfactory principles. The building itself is now undergoing the process to which all public works are inevitably subject, enlargement and improvement. For several years there has been a very strong effort in certain quarters to move the library to our "back bay," or new land, and, of course, to erect a new and costly building. The present structure on Boylston street is centrally located and is comparatively new, and when it was dedicated it was pronounced by Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, in his elegant oration, and by the able committee, and by the public generally, a model of its kind, but scarcely had its doors been opened before it was discovered that it was inconvenient, poorly lighted,

badly ventilated, too small, and in fact, it had so few good points that it would be the part of wisdom to dispose of it and try again! The variations upon this theme have been vigorously and skillfully played, but over cautious citizens thought they saw speculations and "jobs," in the earnest zeal for library improvements, and that contractors and real estate holders had full as much regard for their own pockets as for the wants of the reading public, and so the plausible attempt failed, and the city authorities are now making some changes in the building that will meet all demands for some years to come. The growth of this library has been wonderful, and it is the pride of our city: it is "free" in the broadest sense of the word, and the great public can avail itself of its privileges with ease and comfort. The alterations now being made in the building are in reference to increase of room, rather than change in arrangement. It is still an unsettled question whether it will be opened on the Sabbath, but the evident drift of public opinion is in that direction. B.

FROM PARIS.

PARIS, July 19, 1872.—I told you in my last letter of the great expectations that were entertained of the then pending Lyons Exposition. These expectations were more than realized. In the mechanical department; in typographical apparatus, types, inks, etc., it is even said that it threw the Paris Exposition of 1867 quite in the shade. The Universal Exposition of Vienna is the next event on the list of incentives to mechanical genius. It takes place next year, and judging from the preparations that are being made, it promises fairly to rival the last Paris Exposition. Its catalogue is to be printed by the Imperial printing-house; 440,000 copies are to be issued; the French and English editions will probably be a distinct enterprise.

It is only gradually, and through the reports of the general Inspector of Public Libraries of France, that we are made to realize the irreparable losses the learned world has sustained in the wanton destruction of the Library of the Louvre. This library contained some of the rarest and costliest collections of MSS. and autograph letters extant. Among the most to be regretted of these bibliographical and archaeological curiosities, were the "Consecratio Regis," a beautiful illuminated MS. of the XIV. century, bound in red morocco, with the royal arms; another on vellum, of the XV. century, entitled "At what time the City of Lutèce was commenced, and why it was called Paris"; an autograph MS. of Vauvernargues; a collection of letters to Francis I., and other kings and princes, copied from the originals by Briancourt; "Mazarin's Letters to Mme. de Venel, the governess of his Nieces," "Reflections on the Mercy of God," by Mdle. de la Vallière, annotated by the hand of Bossuet; nine folios entitled, "Letters and Historical Pieces from 1552 to 1566," by Jacques Bourdin, Secretary of Finances, under Henry II., Francis II. and Charles IX.; the "Noailles Papers," a collection of thirty folios of political, historical, and literary letters from 1676 to 1730; the "Saint Genis" collection, the "Motteley" collection, consisting of Elzeviers of all grades and sizes, which Mr. Motteley collected during a period of forty years, all of them in royal and princely bindings; books that had belonged to the kings, queens, princes and princesses of France, from the time of Louis XII. to that of Charles X.; books whose typography and varied bindings formed, as it were, the history, of these arts, presenting specimens of them from the days of the early masters. No less interesting were the foreign bindings

that had belonged to popes, emperors, kings, princes, and illustrious men of all times and all countries; next, the rich and invaluable "Gothic" collections, magnificent volumes, *incunabula*, from the Paris printing establishments of Pasquier Bonhomme, Antoine Verard, Guillaume Eustace, Galiot de Pré, and others of revered memory; the numerous Greek and Latin MSS. from the library of the Oratoire. No time nor money can ever replace such a loss.

Among the new books talked of with interest is a "Défense de Voltaire contre ses amis et ses ennemis," by Courtat. This strange work appears to have been written by a priest. It contains within its closely printed pages material enough for a big volume. We get in it, for the first time, specimens of the familiar correspondence of Tronchin, the famous physician of the eighteenth century. It is difficult to say whether the author is for or against Voltaire, for he manages to bring to bear upon the character of the reputed atheist all the pros and cons of friends and foes, and attacks, at the same time, the contemporary polemics of the most opposite opinions, such as Veuillot and Renan. He maintains finally that Voltaire was an apostle of Catholicism, and concludes his work with the most fervent pages in support of religion.

The "Voyage d'un Amateur en Angleterre," by Alfred Michiels, might prove an instructive companion to Taine's "Notes on England." A fourth edition is announced, with a new preface and supplements. It contains copious information on art in England, on its churches, castles, and civil monuments, on the tombs of its great men, on its universities, schools, gardens, on the history of the country and its poets, but without any statistical or political allusions. It is strictly what its title indicates, a "Voyage d'un Amateur."

The Librairie Hachette has in press, to appear next September, "Dictionnaire d'Histoire de France," a very complete work, containing the general and particular facts of the history of France, its wars, battles, sieges, treaties of peace and alliances, its political organization at various epochs, its religious, administrative, military, literary, and artistic institutions, the biography of its celebrated personages, the history of its literature, its historical geography, the chronology of its sovereigns, its feudal rights and usages, Gallic mythology, and a list of its abbeys and religious orders. "Sous l'Empire," evidently a work of political propagandism, is a novel of political and social manners, illustrated by F. Lix, and appearing in six series, or thirty livraisons. The text is furnished by A. Ranc. Mr. Louis Figuier is preparing the fourth edition of his "Le Lendemain de la Mort." This work has excited considerable interest. The author believes in re-incarnation, and makes it the basis of a system of rewards and punishments. This hypothesis of successive forms of life leads to very curious scientific considerations on the planetary world. The whole work is pervaded with a deep religious feeling, which, aside from its exceptional theories, must recommend it to serious minds.

The lovers of old French poetry will be gratified to hear of the honor paid to the memory of Ronsard. A statue erected to him in the square of the museum in the little town of Vendôme was inaugurated on the 23d of June, amidst various festivities. The archaeological congress met on the 18th, at the city hall of that town, and visited the Chateau de la Poissonnière, where Ronsard was born, in 1524. During the banquet given on this occasion, the modernizer of Ronsard, Mr. Prosper Blanchemain, read an appropriate poem, and a

number of toasts were proposed to the memory of the great poet.

The latest announcement of interest is a volume by Jules Favre, to be published under the title of "Souvenirs Personnels."

R.

LITERARY AND TRADE GOSSIP.

THE AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL CATALOGUE for 1872-73, just published in the TRADE CIRCULAR, contains over 5,000 titles of text-books and educational works of reference.

REVENUE STAMPS.—After the 1st of October, those persons who hold revenue stamps no longer required in use, may claim back from the revenue commissioners 95 per cent. of the face value of the amount returned.

A HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES, by Hon. Alexander H. Stephens, the author of the "Constitutional View of the Late War between the States," is published in a 12mo. of some 500 pages by E. J. Hale & Son in New York, and W. J. Duffie in Columbia, S. C. It touches upon those points in the early settlement and government of the country which are usually brought out in similar text-books, but is especially full in tracing the after political progress of the nation, elucidating the Monroe doctrine, the tariff contentions, the strife between the pro-slavery and anti-slavery factions, and the general tendency and outcome of ideas. The work is brought down to the present time, Gen. Grant's administration being hastily sketched, and characterized as subversive of free institutions, the view of the book being otherwise, naturally, pro-southern. There is a plentiful supply of wood-cuts, and the text is paragraphed and accompanied with questions.

PRANG'S NATURAL HISTORY SERIES, arranged for instruction with Object Lessons, by N. A. Calkins, is an entirely new series for a system of graded instruction in Natural History. It is new in its illustrations, which have been drawn by skillful artists for this special purpose, and printed in colors. It is new in its plan of instruction, which renders the subject highly attractive to children and easily understood by its simple and natural mode of presentation. The series consists of a number of large pictures, each one exhibiting a representative of a family of animals or plants, with its leading characteristics plainly delineated, and each large picture is accompanied by an envelope containing twelve small pictures of animals or plants of the same family. Thus the pupils can, for instance, first be shown a beautiful, life-like picture of an animal, with the leading characteristics of its form prominently represented, and then several other smaller pictures of animals, having the same characteristics, can be placed in their hands for observation and comparison with the first one shown. Thus they are easily led to distinguish, arrange in groups, and associate animals that belong to the same family. The large illustrations will be sold singly, or by the dozen. The smaller ones will be sold only in envelopes of twelve pictures each, or by the dozen envelopes. A full prospectus can be had from the publishers, L. Prang & Co., Boston, or J. W. Schermerhorn & Co., New York.

CHARLES READE's new novel entitled "A Simpleton, a Story of the Day," has been commenced in Harper's Magazine for August. A new novel by Wilkie Collins is announced for the October number.

The first volume of the official account of the war has been published at Berlin, carrying the narrative down to the collapse of the Empire.

BOHN'S LIBRARIES.—A beautiful set of the Bohn Libraries, complete, in half calf, extra, about 600 volumes, has just been imported direct from London by Jansen, McClurg & Co., for H. M. Thompson, Esq., of Chicago. A full set of these celebrated books is something unusual, and, embracing as it does a very large number of the best works in the English language, it forms a very complete library in itself. This set is a very beautiful one in its uniform bindings, and well worth seeing while on exhibition, as it will be for a few days at the store of Messrs. Jansen, McClurg & Co., 607 Wabash avenue. These gentlemen make a specialty of fine imported books.

WM. WOOD & Co. will publish August 15, new and improved editions of Brown's English Grammars, edited by Henry Kiddle, A. M., Superintendent of Common Schools of New York City. The books have been thoroughly revised, particularly the department of Sentential Analysis, and a System of Oral Instruction is incorporated, which it is thought will add greatly to the value of those deservedly favorite school-books.

THE FINANCIER, one of the most valuable business papers published in the United States, will hereafter contain, on the last Saturday of every month, a supplement to *The Financier*, entitled *The Investor's Guardian*, which will be furnished to subscribers only. This supplement will contain, in most convenient form, accurate information as to the relative condition, interest-paying rate and value of State, county, municipal, railroad, and corporation bonds and securities.

A CAMPAIGN "Life of Henry Wilson" is in rapid preparation by Hon. Thomas Russell and Rev. Elias Nason, to be published by B. B. Russell of Boston.

CANADIAN COPYRIGHT.—As treasurer of the Copyright Association, Mr. Longman has written to the *Times* to call attention to a piece of hurried legislation on the part of the Canadian Parliament. According to his view, the result will be to secure to the Dominion the legal right of dealing with the personal property of English subjects in England by paying to the owner of an English copyright a small excise duty, to be settled by the Canadian Parliament. In any case, we can quite believe that this alleged practical repeal of the Imperial Copyright Act was the result of hurry, and certainly the whole question should return before the Imperial Parliament. The present state of the law is sufficiently unsatisfactory to render further complication and confusion, whether in Canada or elsewhere, a legislative error. These frequent collisions of local with imperial interests are a significant comment upon our present colonial policy of disunion. —*London Publishers' Circular*.

"LIFE LESSONS from the Book of Proverbs," is the title of a volume of lectures, more or less adapted to the wants of young men and young women, which is soon to appear. The author is the Rev. William Stevens Perry, D.D. The volume will be published by Mr. Whittaker, 2 Bible House.

SUPERINTENDENT WINSOR, of the Boston Public Library, has written a work entitled, "How to Choose Books," by the gratuitous distribution of which he hopes to relieve the attendants from the foolish questions of borrowers who do not know what they want.

ELIZABETH WILLE's novel, "Johannes Olaf," which has excited much interest in Germany, is being translated by F. E. Bunnett. The first part is already published in London, by Henry S. King & Co.

PROFESSOR TYNDALL, the very type of a burly Englishman, always in the best of health, has engaged passage for New York, and will arrive here in October. He will remain in the country six or seven months, and lecture in the principal cities. While here he will be in the hands of Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute, Washington. He will stay in New York at least two weeks, and give six lectures. As he is an eloquent and graceful speaker and a brilliant experimenter, his audience will, of course, be large and enthusiastic.

THE DIAL BOOK MARK, introduced by McDonnell & Co., 62 Fulton street, is decidedly an improvement on all the old styles. It consists of thin cardboard three inches square, with a dial face divided into three sections and numerals denoting units, tens and hundreds, with metallic pointers for each section, and will register as high as one thousand. It is simple in construction and can be easily adjusted. It is intended to be attached to the inside of the book cover, having gummed corners for that purpose, and is therefore ready for immediate use. It is a useful little article. Its neat appearance and low price will help it to find its way into thousands of books of the present generation, and many a volume yet unborn. Proprietors of private libraries, and of half a score of little wisdom seekers, by using this mark, will have no further occasion to court-martial Sam or Sue for putting "dog's ears" in their favorite volumes. Superintendents of public libraries will find in it a "friend indeed." If they will insist upon its constant use their waste-basket contributions will rapidly diminish. Their male readers will be taught that gifts of toothpicks, matches and cigarettes, are no longer in order, while their lady patrons will take the hint, and cease their generous donations of homeopathic samples of ribbons, calicoes, and shoe-strings; and when this notice meets the eye of the library official who reported to the astonished directors, "seven hundred new volumes, and thirty-three gross of hair-pins, as donations to the institution from various sources," he will beyond a shadow of a doubt, immediately avail himself of the opportunity offered by the above-named firm, to reduce the receipts of the association in the hardware line hereafter. We learn that the managers of several libraries are negotiating with the manufacturers for large quantities. Dealers will do well to obtain a supply.

ROBERT CLARKE & CO.'S NEW PARTNERS.—Says the Cincinnati Times: "Their numerous friends, who have been for years past accustomed to receive the courteous attention of Messrs. Alexander Hill and Howard Barney, at the well-known bookstore of Robert Clarke & Co., of this city, will be gratified to learn that these young gentlemen have earned the reward of faithful service and thorough competency in admission to partnerships in the business of the firm. This recognition of their faithful services should encourage other young men to similar devotion to the interests of their employers.

THE utility of trade journals is somewhat significantly shown by the fact that the *Hatter*, recently started in London, has persistently advocated the establishment of a benevolent association for that trade, and a meeting of hatters, etc., has just been held for the purpose of starting such a society as that desired.

MR. WELFORD, of Messrs. Scribner, Welford & Armstrong, recently paid \$3,350 for a copy of the *Confessio Amantis*, by John Gower, printed in 1493.

"CARPET-BAGGERS" is the appropriate catchword, heading the advertisement of Roberts Bros.' recent publications.

WEIGEL's famous collection of specimens of early printing was lately sold at auction in Leipsic. Very high prices were obtained. The British Museum paid over seven thousand dollars for the only existing xylographic copy of the "Ars Moriendi," and six hundred dollars were paid for one leaf of one of Gutenberg's earliest Bibles.

THE Crown-Princess Victoria of Prussia offers a prize of ten thousand thalers for the best essay on advancing the material prosperity of working-people. The essays may be written in German, French, or English.

FRIEDRICH SPIELHAGEN, the author of "Problematic Characters," has declined an offer to become editor-in-chief of a German newspaper published in St. Louis.

THE "Catalogue Général de la Librairie Française pendant 25 ans, 1840-1865," by Otto Lorenz has been completed, and is published in Paris in four volumes.

VICTORIEN SARDOU's new play will be entitled "L'Americaine." The scene is laid in New York. It will be performed at the Paris Gymnase next August.

SCHELTER & GIESECKE, type founders, of Leipzig, have produced some old Grecian, Coptic and Syrian types of a most admirable character.

THE poem entitled "Midsummer" which may be found with its companion, "Midwinter" in the "Vagabond" and other poems, by Mr. Trowbridge, has been curiously attributed to Mr. R. W. Emerson.

ADVANCE BOOK-NOTES.

Martyrs to the Tract Cause is the title of a work by Dr. John F. Hurst, author of the "History of Rationalism." It is divided into three parts: Authors of Tracts; Distributors of Tracts; and Readers of Tracts; and deals altogether with the Reformation period, and chiefly with characters belonging to France, Switzerland, and Italy. The object of the work is to show the utility of the free distribution of cheap religious literature, as proved by the remarkable fruits of the agency in the most important crisis in modern church history. Paschali, Paleario, Louis of Berquin, and other staunch reformers who were willing to seal their devotion to the Protestant cause by dying for it, are treated at length. Among other points which the proof-sheets forecast may be mentioned a summary of Paleario's remarkable tract on the "Benefit of Christ's Death," and a description of the historical Monastery on Monte Cassino, in Italy, which has always been distinguished for its liberal principles. Messrs. Nelson & Phillips, of New York, will issue it in a few weeks in a neat 12mo. of about 200 pages.

BUSINESS CHANGES.

[In stating any change, dealers will please enclose their business card, or give a detailed account of the more prominent features of their business. No charge for insertion.]

BALTIMORE, Md.—The business heretofore conducted by E. F. Nicholson, together with the business of the "Teachers' National Publishing Association," have been consolidated, and will be continued at 179 W. Baltimore street by W. B. Smith & Co., publishers of the "Educational Year Book," and the forthcoming series of Monteith's Object Readers.

BETHLEHEM, Pa.—Fred. A. Weldon has been admitted as partner in the firm of Weaver & Weldon, booksellers and stationers.

CINCINNATI, O.—Howard Barney and Alexander Hill have been admitted as partners in the firm of Robert Clarke & Co., dating from July 1, 1872. Business will be conducted under the same firm name as heretofore.

COLUMBIA, S. C.—Duffie & Chapman, the publishers of Reynold's Readers, have been succeeded by W. J. Duffie.

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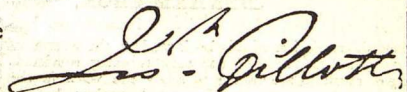
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